



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 79

February Session, 2002

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CERTIFICATION OF ORGANICALLY GROWN FOODS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 21a-92a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

3 (a) No person may advertise, distribute or sell a food or food
4 supplement described as "organic", "organically grown" or "natural" or
5 described with or by words of similar meaning, unless such food or
6 food supplement complies with the definitions of "organically grown
7 food" or "natural food", as the case may be, as provided in section 21a-
8 92.

9 (b) Agricultural products or by-products that have been organically
10 grown, as defined in section 21a-92, shall be certified as organically
11 grown annually by the [certification committee of the Northeast
12 Organic Farming Association of Connecticut] Department of
13 Agriculture or a certification body recognized by the National Organic
14 Standards Board or the United States Department of Agriculture.
15 Organic certification shall include at least one annual site visit by an
16 independent inspector approved by the certification body. Such
17 certification bodies shall issue certification standards which denote
18 approved, regulated and prohibited farming practices and substances.
19 Certification standards shall be reviewed and updated annually by the

20 certification body. Agricultural products or by-products that have been
 21 certified as organically grown shall not be intentionally subjected to
 22 prohibited substances and shall not contain residues in excess of [one]
 23 five per cent of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's
 24 allowable tolerance level caused by unintentional and unavoidable
 25 contamination by prohibited substances. Certified organic farming
 26 shall be a production system which prohibits the use of synthetically
 27 manufactured fertilizers, synthetically manufactured pesticides,
 28 synthetically manufactured herbicides, synthetically manufactured
 29 fungicides, synthetically manufactured growth regulators, irradiation
 30 or transgenic seeds and sewage sludge. Violations of this section shall
 31 be reported to the Department of Consumer Protection.

32 (c) All foods advertised, distributed or sold in violation of this
 33 section shall be deemed to be misbranded under section 21a-102.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	October 1, 2002

ENV Joint Favorable Subst.

APP Joint Favorable